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THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA

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THOSE REMARKABLE CHILDREN.....	1
A NEW SCHOOL FOR ANOLAIMA.....	2
A LIFE TRANSFORMED.....	2
VERNELLE YODER DIRECTS LA MESA SCHOOL	3
HYMNS IN THE NIGHT.....	3
LAY WORKERS TAKE ACTIVE PART IN EVANGELISM.....	4
COLOMBIAN PASTOR CONTINUES STUDY IN COSTA RICA..	4
TEACHERS ATTEND EVANGELICAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.	5
THIS AND THAT.....	5
PRAYER AND PRAISE.....	6



THOSE REMARKABLE CHILDREN

In Colombia many parents have confidence in a certain medicine that is said to "open the mind" of a child to permit him to learn more easily. Some are learning, however, that the Mission School with its loving and modern ways of teaching is even more effective....that even seemingly stupid children are becoming enlightened.



111 Children Salute the Flag

From little houses high in the mountains, and from little shacks in the valley, over rough, dangerous, and very long trails, scores of little children are making their way this year to our Mission School that not only opens the mind....but the heart as well.

Our school in Cachipay this year has 111 enrolled for the primary course, and a group of fine young people who are entering into a work-

and-study program beyond the fifth grade. The work program involves farming, chicken raising, brick making, construction, and maintenance, while the study involves typing, shorthand, English, and music. Much emphasis is also given to the development of the spiritual nature of the young people through chapels, Bible courses, memorization of Scripture, and morning and evening devotions.

With your prayers, these children can become the future Christian leaders of Colombia.

A NEW SCHOOL FOR ANOLAIMA

About ten years ago when Alice Bachert was living in Anolaima, a small school was started for the children of the Christians, but with the coming of more intense persecution during the following decade, the school was closed. During all these years a few of the evangelical children of Anolaima have lived and studied at the Cachipay school. One of these was Zhoraida Pinzon, who only last November graduated from primary school.



Zhoraida and Her Pupils

Zhoraida desired to go on to school and learn to be a teacher, but since her family did not have the money to send her, she applied for a government scholarship. In order to qualify, she had to take an examination....and a large part of the examination was on the Catholic religion. Zhoraida used every opportunity during the test to give a Christian witness....with the result that she did not receive the scholarship.

Returning to her home village, she began to see a need among the young children there who had no school to attend, and so, all on her own and without asking for any financial backing, she began an informal school. Zhoraida, who is only fourteen years old, is teaching ten children the four R's....Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic, and Religion, with the Bible as a textbook, and her aim to draw these little ones into Christ's kingdom. Perhaps this is the beginning of a school for Anolaima, where, indeed, there are many children to be reached.

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

It hardly seems possible that such a little man should have so much power and be able to work so effectively for the Lord. There he stood in the midst of his family and friends, exhorting them to forsake their sins and to put their trust in the Lord. The house was far from town, nestled in the heart of the Andes mountains....somewhat isolated. Suddenly there was a rain of stones on the roof. The neighbors hated the Gospel....disliked the little man. The little man's brother picked up an iron rod and was going to go out and fight. He was big; he could beat up the enemies in short order. The little man said, "No, just have faith in God. It will all come out all right." The big man laid down his iron pipe. The mother cried, and all were afraid. "Let us pray,"....and as they prayed, God met them and souls were born into the kingdom.

He has changed so much....this little man with a big name. His parents called him Juan de Jesus Garzon. In spite of carrying the name of "Jesus", he read and loved the books on white magic, the book of Cipriano, and the sealed book which carried the secrets of perversity. As he walked around, he carried a dagger, a long knife, and a razor bladejust in case. He spent his time in the taverns getting drunk. When a co-worker told him about the Gospel, he wanted to fight with him. But he was curious....and he asked to see the Book....the Bible. He read the fourth chapter of Matthew, but he couldn't understand it. But the seed had fallen into fertile, even though weedy, soil.

He knew where he could get more information, and he made his way, along with his wife, to El Recreo where the mission school is located. There Gerald Stucky carefully explained the Gospel to them and they bowed their heads in prayer and accepted Christ as their Saviour.

The neighbors were not happy with the sudden change that came over Juan. As long as he got drunk and dealt in magic and carried fighting weapons, he was one of them. But now he made them so uneasy. They said that he walked with the devil and they wanted to burn down his house and get rid of him and his family. They said that he was a destroyer of souls. They hated him for always carrying around the Bible and discussing things with them that they could not answer. But his changed life was indeed a riddle.

But even as a magnet draws iron, they were drawn to Juan and the Gospel. They began dropping round to his house, and he used the opportunity to exhort them with the Word. Slowly the opposition melted as one by one became interested in the Gospel. Night after night he held evening services for his numerous family and his neighbors. They too began to make decisions for Christ. Not content, he began to make long trips on foot to his former friends and relatives to tell them about the Gospel. Always he carried with him the Book. When he went to El Pinal,



Juan de Jesus Garzon

a bus came along and stopped to permit the passengers to buy some pineapples. He began to witness to five or six of them, but soon he had nearly the whole bus-load of passengers as his audience, and God gave him the message. Wherever he goes, people listen, and some are convicted of sin and come into the kingdom.

Because he had a deep desire to know more about the Word, he has enrolled in a correspondence course on Bible studies. His one consuming passion has become to win others to His Saviour. He has become God's man in God's place.

VERNELLE YODER DIRECTS LA MESA SCHOOL

For a number of years the school in La Mesa has had a turbulent history....it was closed by the town authorities several times, and we were never able to secure the official license to function. Then there have been difficulties in securing an adequate teaching staff as well.

In January, Vernelle Yoder, who has been principal of the Cachipay school for a number of years, moved to La Mesa to help put the school on a more firm foundation. Living with her is Miss Berta Correa, formerly a teacher in Cachipay, who is assisting in the teaching. They have an enrollment of 27 children, which is a fine number for a school which has labored under such difficulties in the past. So it is our prayer that a school of a high quality may be established there, and one that will be a spiritual blessing to the church and community as well.

HYMNS IN THE NIGHT

Night had fallen, but a full moon made a bright path over the rough stone road. A few minutes more, and the missionary would be home. The light from his flashlight cast a beam into the shadows as he walked along. Just a bit ahead, across the river and beside the bridge, was a poor little shack. A faint light, perhaps from a candle, shown through

the cracks in the mud wall, and the moonlight reflected off the tin roof. The sparkle of moonlight through the trees, and the beauty of the night, hid the misery of the poor dwelling with a cloak of semi-darkness.

Then out of the darkness came the sound of music....voices raised in singing hymns of praise to God. There was the low voice of the father, and the higher voice of the motherand the clear piping tones of small children, all blended together. The missionary paused to listen a moment. It was joyful singing. He could hear the sweet voices of little George and William, only four and five years old, rising above the others. Occasionally he could hear three-year-old Samuel too, and James, who is a bit older. Then he moved on, his heart touched by what he had heard.

The next evening the parents who lived in that poor house were in prayer meeting in Cachipay. Afterward, as they rode home over the bumpy lane in the mission jeep, the missionary commented on his delight in having heard the family sing so joyously the night before.

"Oh, yes," replied the parents, "it's that sometimes there isn't enough to eat for supper and the children are still hungry and crying for more food. So we begin to sing hymns, and they join with us happily and forget their misery.



Sometimes hungry, but happy

By singing praises to God, they forgot their hunger! They did not complain, but they praised Him! How much more should we, in the midst of the great bountifulness of God's blessing poured out upon us, raise our voices in unending praise and thanksgiving to Him.

"Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee."

LAY WORKERS TAKE ACTIVE PART IN EVANGELISM

Since at the present time our three national pastors are also in school studying for the ministry, we are handicapped by a lack of workers. We are encouraged in that God has raised up lay workers to fill the gap. In this issue you have read the story of Juan de Jesus Garzon, who has given of his time to evangelize the surrounding community. Others have done likewise.

Three are taking a Bible correspondence course in order to better prepare themselves for this work. Part time they work as a carpenter, a farmer, and a housewife, in order to earn a living, and the rest of their time they give to spreading the Gospel. In many ways their efforts are more effective than that of the missionary in reaching the lost for Christ. God has been gracious in raising up these witnesses.

COLOMBIAN PASTOR CONTINUES STUDY IN COSTA RICA

One of our faithful Colombian pastors, Armando Hernandez, left Colombia in March for Costa Rica, where he will further his theological studies in the Latin American Seminary located in San Jose. Armando has been a great blessing to the work here. Originally from Cachipay,

he has also pastored the churches in La Mesa and Anolaima. We shall miss him very much, but we rejoice with him at the opportunity for further study.



Armando and friends



Winding roads but
beautiful scenery

TEACHERS ATTEND EVANGELICAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

At 4:00 a.m. the jeep motor was warming up for a long day's drive up and down the mountains. With five teachers packed between the luggage, the sixteen-hour drive began. While driving near the snow line, they wished they were in the hot valley to warm up. In the hot valley, they wished they were driving in higher altitudes. After many hours of rough, dusty roads, seeing varied scenery, etc., they came down the mountain side overlooking the beautiful lights of Medellin, where they were to spend a week of conference with some 125 Protestant teachers from all over Colombia. It was a week of devotion, inspiration, education, and relaxation, as one had fellowship with others who were working for the cause of the Gospel through the medium of education. The purpose of the conference was to encourage one another, to give teaching aids, and to discuss common problems. It was considered a worthwhile venture.

THIS AND THAT

Word has been received that a new missionary couple, the Glendon Klaassens, have been appointed to Colombia and will begin language study in Costa Rica in September. It is expected that they will go to Ibague to teach in the Evangelical Normal School in which our mission cooperates.

Huldah Myers, who has been studying Spanish while carrying on her other activities at the Colegio Americano in Bogota, spent her vacation in concentrated study in the language school in Costa Rica.

Because of continued ill health, Alice Bachert, who has been working in La Mesa and Anapoina, felt it necessary to spend some months at the coast. It is hoped that she will regain her strength soon so as to be able to carry on the work which is so important to her.

Janet Soldner, now on furlough, is spending several months at a United Presbyterian Hospital in Kentucky where she is gaining valuable experience for her work in Colombia.

The Calvin Flickinger family was happy to have Mrs. Flickinger's father, Mr. Abraham Nickel of Minnesota, spend about six weeks with them.

Visiting Miss Huldah Myers is her cousin, Mrs. Mable Wilson from Pennsylvania, now seventy years old, and on her first trip outside the homeland.

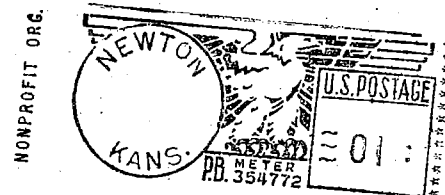
The English-speaking Union Church of Bogota, which has been a constant supporter of the Colegio for the past ten years, is planning an excursion of as many members as possible to familiarize them more thoroughly with the work, and to see in what ways they can be of service.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

THANK HIM for the successful opening of the schools in La Mesa, Anolaima, and Cachipay.
for greater interest in the Gospel among our neighbors.
for a well-trained and consecrated teaching staff.
for the appointment of a new missionary couple.

PRAY for the schools, that they may be used to build Christian character in the children and be a means of breaking down opposition to the Gospel.
for the three young men now studying for the ministry, and for the four students in normal school training for Christian teaching.
for the children and young people who have left Cachipay and are in other places.
for the church members and lay workers who will have to assume more responsibility as Armando leaves for further study.
that the visa for the Glendon Klaassens may be granted.

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